

Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Annual Report 2001



Utah Crime Reduction Plan

The 1999 Legislature passed H.B. 145 - *State and Local Agencies' Crime Reduction Plans*, which provided the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) funding and responsibility to aid state and local justice agencies in developing crime reduction plans. Working with state and local justice agencies, crime problems facing Utah were identified. These problems, and solutions to these problems, constitute the Utah Crime Reduction Plan (Plan).

The Plan is organized into the four broad categories: **Drugs and Related Crime, Family and Community Violence, Information Systems and Communications, and Justice System Accountability**. The Plan is a dynamic document and undergoes continual update and modification. Because it was identified as the top crime problem in Utah, CCJJ focused first on the *Drugs and Related Crime* section of the Plan.

Work is underway throughout Utah to develop and enhance programs that address the objectives of the Drug section of the Plan. This work includes expanding Drug Courts throughout Utah, working to stop the flow of precursor chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine, and providing assistance in the clean-up of sites that have been used for the manufacture of methamphetamine. Although the focus of the Plan during the past year has been on the Drug section, progress has also been made in the other categories.

Over the past year, an Internet-based Resource Guide has been developed to assist Utah law enforcement agencies in finding solutions to community crime problems. Solutions to problems outlined in the Crime Reduction Plan were solicited from law enforcement agencies across the state. These were solutions that agencies have implemented and proven effective.

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CCJJ

The Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) was created within the Governor's Office to promote broad philosophical agreement concerning the objectives of the criminal and juvenile justice system in Utah and to provide a mechanism for coordinating the functions of the various branches and levels of government concerned with criminal and juvenile justice and coordinate statewide efforts to reduce crime and victimization in Utah.

Descriptions of the solutions, as well as the name of the agency that implemented the solution, are now compiled in a central database. This database will be updated as new and innovative solutions are implemented.

In FY2001, CCJJ carried over \$80,000 from non-lapsing funds remaining from the original appropriation of \$150,000 from 1999. These funds are distributed to state and local criminal justice activities that fall within the context of crime reduction planning. During FY2001, the following funds have been distributed in this effort:

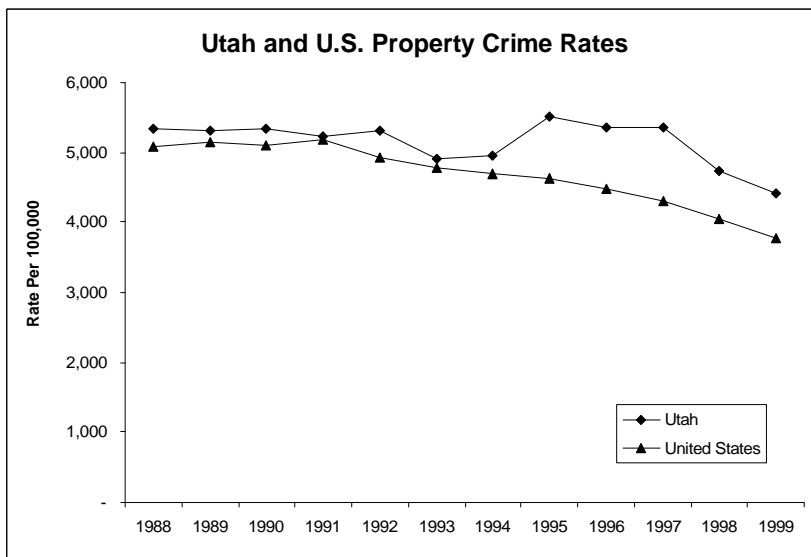
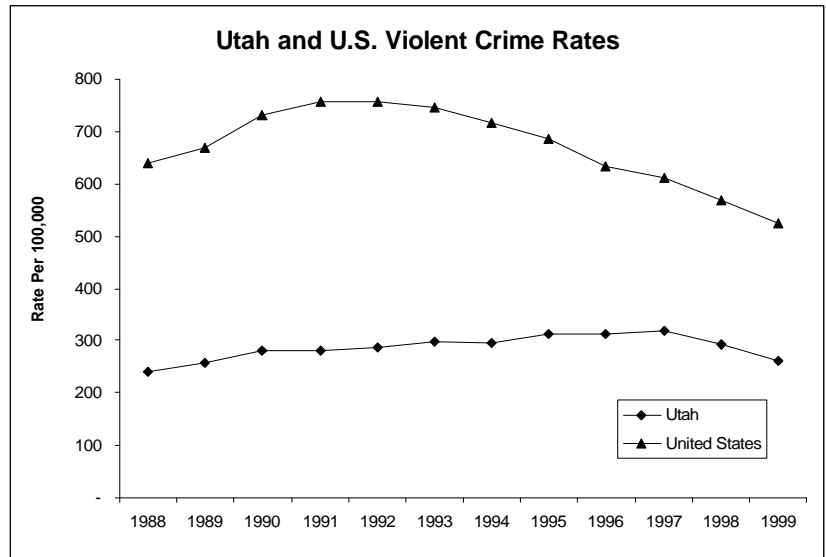
- 1) \$7,500 was provided for the September 16 - 19 2000, Utah Sheriffs Association's 5th Annual Law Enforcement and Training Conference.
- 2) \$10,000 was used to support the 2nd Annual Salt Lake County Crime Reduction Conference on October 31, 2000.
- 3) \$7,500 was expended for the December 14, 2000, Chiefs of Police Association Winter Executive Development Institute.

In the coming year, CCJJ will continue to work with state and local justice agencies to develop the programs necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Drug section of the Plan. CCJJ will also begin the development of performance measures. The focus will be on developing measures that accurately gauge the progress in accomplishing each objective.

Crime In Utah

Utah's index crime rate fell 7.2% between 1998 and 1999. Index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Although Utah's overall crime rate is higher than the national rate, Utah's 1999 crime rate is the lowest rate in over 20 years. Utah's overall crime rate is higher than the national rate due to the high number of larceny offenses that occur in our state.

Utah's violent crime rate fell 10.9% between 1998 and 1999. Between 1997 and 1999, the rate decreased 17.8%. As the adjacent graph depicts, Utah's violent crime rate is about half the nation's violent crime rate. Between 1998 and 1999, Utah's murder rate fell 29.5%; the rape rate decreased 8.0%; the robbery rate decreased 18.2%; and the aggravated assault rate decreased 8.7%.



Utah's property crime rate fell 6.9% between 1998 and 1999. Utah's property crime rate is higher than the national property crime rate, which also causes Utah's overall crime rate to be higher than the national crime rate. This is primarily due to the Utah's high rate of larceny crimes. Between 1998 and 1999, Utah's burglary rate fell 11.4%; the larceny/theft rate decreased 6.2%; the motor vehicle theft rate decreased 4.7%; and the arson rate decreased 15.0%.

Governor Leavitt's Fiscal Year 2002 Criminal Justice Budget Recommendations

In preparation for the FY2002 Budget, CCJJ reviewed and prioritized state criminal and juvenile justice agency budget requests. As a result of CCJJ's efforts and consultation with the departments, Governor Leavitt proposed significant investments in crime prevention, intervention, and offender treatment. The proposed budget also enhances Utah's crime fighting tools and the capacity of Utah's justice system.

The FY2002 budget recommendations call for an additional \$102 million investment in criminal and juvenile justice for Utah. Included in the proposed budget is \$3.4 million for the expansion of Drug Court programs throughout the state.

The budget recommendations also include funding for 1,221 new correctional beds and \$14.8 million for jail programs in Utah. The funding provides for 810 new prison beds, 355 new jail beds, and 26 new juvenile beds. Between FY1994 and Proposed FY2002, Utah's adult and juvenile beds/slots have doubled.

Utah Drug and Violent Crime Grant Program

Governor Leavitt designated CCJJ as the Utah agency responsible for coordinating and administering the Edward Byrne Memorial Drug and Violent Crime Grant. Utah's allocation for the 2000 grant year was \$4,484,400, of which 57% was provided to local units of government.

Utah's 2000 Drug and Violent Crime Enforcement Control Plan (3 year strategy) targeted the problems associated with illegal drug activity; white collar technology crimes; substance abuse treatment; sex offender treatment; adult and juvenile criminal activity and violence; court delay reduction efforts; and overcrowded conditions in detention centers and jails. Programs that received funding and were operating in 2000 include: multi-jurisdictional drug task forces; gang units; a white-collar technology forensics lab; crime scene investigations; offender diversion programs; adult and juvenile drug treatment and sex offender treatment programs; court delay and case management programs; crime lab enhancements; and criminal history improvement projects.

Juvenile Justice Grant Programs

\$2,696,500

Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG)

Utah received its third installment of funding through the federal JAIBG program. The \$2,696,500 award is being used to develop an Internet-based Juvenile Information System and to provide alternative and out-of-state placements, home detention, and electronic monitoring for youth.

\$375,000

State Crime Prevention and Gang Grants

This year the State Crime Prevention and the State Gang Prevention grants were combined. Eleven programs were funded including a gang intervention program for girls, child abuse prevention training in Southern Utah, and life skills training for youth residing on the Fort Duschesne Indian Reservation.

\$734,900

Title II Formula Grants

The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice awarded federal funds to 20 new and continuation juvenile justice programs. The disproportionate confinement of youth in Utah's secure facilities remained a high priority and several programs were funded to intervene earlier with minority youth to divert them from the juvenile justice system. Funding was also allocated to develop a cultural competency curriculum for juvenile justice personnel.

\$87,500

Challenge Grant

Three programs were funded through the federal Challenge Grant which targets two areas: (1) improving basic system services; (2) expanding aftercare programs; and (3) providing training of law enforcement officers in the identification of mentally ill offenders in the justice system. This is the first year that Challenge funds were used in this category. Funds are being used to develop a youth assessment tool and to provide aftercare support for youth transitioning back into the community from a secure care setting.

\$367,000

Title V Delinquency Prevention Grants

The Title V program was expanded to the Murray City community this year. Funding was also maintained for a second year to Millard County, Bountiful City, and Clearfield City. Funds are used to implement a three-year plan for delinquency prevention and include such activities as after-school recreation, life-skills training, career exploration, and police mentoring efforts.

Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP)

The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice funded the Sevier SHOCAP effort which includes Paiute and Wayne counties. Cache County was also funded through JAIBG to begin SHOCAP implementation. Five other counties maintained their SHOCAP efforts (Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Weber/Morgan) while San Juan County chose to drop the program and instead focus on less serious youthful offender.

Violent Offender and Truth in Sentencing Incentive Grants (VOITIS)

In September 2000 Utah received an additional \$3,838,100 in the federal VOITIS grant. Since the inception of this program in FY1996 the state has been awarded \$20.3 million. The majority of this money has been expended on the construction of adult and youth correctional facilities including the expansion of the Millcreek youth facility and the Gunnison adult facility. Additional funding will be provided in the future for expansion of local jails in Beaver and Millard counties.

Technology Grants and Plans

The Commission has statutory responsibility to coordinate the development of information systems within the criminal justice community. This is important because deficiencies in criminal justice data and data standards hamper the administration of justice from initial arrest/citation to final disposition or incarceration.

In addition, the research derived from these information systems helps the legislature and other policy makers make more informed decisions.

Utah continues to progress on creating a coordinated data collection methodology to improve the quality and completeness of the criminal and juvenile justice information systems. CCJJ approaches this task by using grant funding, relying on the expertise of the technical sub-committee and participating in technology development projects. Below are some specific examples of CCJJ initiatives.

Technical Sub-committee of the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

The membership of this group includes the Chief Information Officer; the Directors of Data Processing from the Department of Public Safety, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Department of Corrections; the Directors of Research from Division of Youth Corrections and CCJJ; the State Data Architect; the Executive Director of the Utah Prosecution Council; and representatives from local law enforcement. This group is key to providing a forum for discussing policy issues related to data integration. In addition, each year this

group approves the information technology grant funding plan.

National Criminal History Improvement Program Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

In 2000, Utah received \$540,256 for the continuation of NCHIP. 2000 NCHIP funds were allocated to the Department of Corrections' offender tracking system called OTRACK, and the Department of Public Safety for disposition research. To date Utah has received over \$3 million in NCHIP funds.

National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRS)

Utah has applied for a grant to continue efforts towards to provide statewide incident based reporting data to Utah policy makers and citizens. Approximately 80% of the state's population is currently covered by NIBRS reporting.

Justice Court Automation

CCJJ awarded funding to the Administrative Office of the Courts to examine ways to provide technology to Justice Courts. The purpose of the project is to improve reporting to state databases, including Driver's License, Statewide Warrants and Criminal History.

Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

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